



Weekly Drought Brief Monday April 21, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Recent Precipitation: No rain or snow fell in California in the past week:

- **Folsom:** 0.00" in the last week. 15.12" since July 1, **71%** of normal by this date.
- **Fresno:** 0.00" in the last week. 4.26" since July 1, **41%** of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** 0.00" in the last week. 17.93" since July 1, **54%** of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** 0.00" in the last week. 5.77" since July 1, **41%** of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** 0.00" in the last week. 6.63" since July 1, **56%** of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** 0.00" in the last week. 19.00" since July 1, **65%** of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** 0.00" in the last week. 24.40" since July 1, **50%** of normal by this date.
- **Redding:** 0.00" in the last week. 21.16" since July 1, **68%** of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** 0.00" in the last week. 9.59" since July 1, **49%** of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** 0.00" in the last week. 33.68" since July 1, **57%** of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** 0.00" in the last week. 33.92" since July 1, **72%** of normal by this date.

Near-term Outlook for Precipitation: This week brings cooler and wetter weather across the state, although precipitation will likely be limited.

****As our state's rainy season comes to an end, it is highly unlikely that precipitation totals will increase significantly. This winter's below average rain and snowfall worsens conditions in this third straight dry year.****

Snow survey: The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on April 1, recorded California snowpack at 32% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 19% of normal as of April 20.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of April 19 remain low, including: Don Pedro 54%; Exchequer 26%; Folsom Lake 54%; Lake Oroville 52%; Millerton Lake 36%; New Melones 41%; Pine Flat 27%; San Luis 46%; Shasta 53%; and Trinity Lake 53%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Fire Danger: 1,040 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 2,393 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 428 wildfires, burning 1,179 acres. 87 new wildfires were reported over the past week, most of which were kept small due to additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft added during this dry winter.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

Federal Actions

- **Water Allocations Increase:** The capture of storm runoff from February and March rains has enabled the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources to [update their water allocations](#):
 - Reclamation will increase its water allocation to Upper Sacramento Settlement Contractors from **40% to 75%**. Several of these contractors have agreed to take their allocations later in the season than normal, which will benefit migrating fish. Some water from this increased allocation may be used south of the Delta thanks to water transfers between willing water buyers and sellers.
 - DWR has increased its allocation for South of Delta Service Contractors from **0% to 5%**. This increase, while modest, will enable approximately 200,000 acre feet of water to state water project users.
- **Salinity barriers not currently needed:** DWR and partner agencies [have determined](#) that rock barriers to prevent saltwater intrusion into the Delta **are not needed** at this time. Salinity barriers remain an option for later in the year if needed.
- **Increased fish monitoring:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and federal fish and wildlife agencies [announced they will immediately move to expand monitoring](#) of the drought's evolving impacts on protected fish, including those migrating through the Sacramento River.
- **US Navy demonstrates leadership on water conservation:** Navy Region Southwest, the Navy division that manages California Navy bases, is taking new steps to [conserve water](#) at its bases, including aiming to reduce water usage another 10% through December. This recent push continues Navy Region Southwest's successful water conservation efforts, which has included reducing water use by more than 26% since 2007.

State Actions

- **Statewide fire staffing continues to expand:** Last week, CALFIRE added another 42 fire engines across the state, and will add 65 more engines this week. CALFIRE has increased firefighter staffing this spring far earlier than normal amidst dry conditions and abnormally high wildfire activity. In the last week alone, 82 new fires were reported.
- **Drought Relief Food Assistance:** On Thursday, the [California Department of Social Services announced](#) that food banks in 24 drought-impacted counties will soon receive shipments of the first \$5.1 million in food assistance authorized by the state's emergency drought legislation.
- **Housing assistance for drought victims advances:** The California Department of Housing & Community Development is currently seeking public input on its plan to spend [\\$21 million in grant funding for rental assistance](#) to individuals impacted by the drought. This public comment will inform the way these funds are spent later this spring and summer.
- **State agencies work to facilitate water transfers:** State and federal agencies are working to streamline their approval of temporary water transfers, including expediting applications for

transfers. The Water Board and DWR will hold a [public meeting](#) on Tuesday, April 29 to solicit new recommendations on how best to streamline the review process for water transfers.

- **Water Board launches web tool:** The State Water Board has developed [a webpage that helps water users monitor river flow](#) in watersheds where they live and farm. This information, which will be updated weekly, helps water users anticipate any curtailment of their water use that may become necessary due to lack of river flow.
- **Drought Taskforce leaders travel to Tulare and Visalia:** Leaders of the Governor's Drought Taskforce will hold their fourth regional meeting with local government leaders in Visalia on Monday, April 28. These regional meetings allow Taskforce leaders to learn more about localized drought impacts. Drought Taskforce meetings have already taken place in Willits, Merced and Santa Cruz.
- **Upcoming workshop on recent water operations:** The State Water Resources Control Board will hold [a workshop](#) on Tuesday, May 6 to discuss recent actions the Water Board has taken to provide flexibility to DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation in their water operations. These changes have been approved through modifications to Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, and is [described in greater detail](#) on drought.ca.gov.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 41 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
 - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Georgetown Water District

- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 24 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)
 State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)
 Local Government [Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)
 California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
 California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)
 California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)
 California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
 California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)
 California State Water Project, [Information](#)
 USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)
 USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)
 Small Business Administration Disaster Support: www.sba.gov/disaster